

## Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

2016 – 2017 Project Proposal

Title of the Project	Funding Impacts on Educational Outcomes in Kansas
Problem to be Addressed	The impact of Kansas educational funding cuts on statewide educational outcomes.
Background <i>(include federal jurisdiction/protected classes)</i>	<p>In February, 2015 the New York Times ran the article, “Education Is Newest Target of Kansas Budget Cuts”. An excerpt follows:</p> <p>“KANSAS CITY, Kan. — In November, shortly after Gov. Sam Brownback won re-election, experts forecast that the state would bring in \$1 billion less than expected over the next two years. He responded by cutting state agency budgets and proposing the transfer of funds among various state accounts. In December came news of a revenue slump, falling to \$15.1 million below estimates. Mr. Brownback proposed increasing taxes on liquor and cigarettes, slowed reductions in the income tax and changed the way money was distributed to public schools.</p> <p>But the governor’s budget headaches have continued: January receipts fell \$47.2 million short of predictions, and Mr. Brownback has responded by cutting funding for public schools and higher education by a combined \$44.5 million.</p> <p>The move has education officials across the state seething. Here, the Kansas City Public School District has already endured \$45 million in lost state revenue since 2009, said Cynthia Lane, the superintendent. Mr. Brownback’s cut of 1.5 percent to public school funding statewide would amount to a loss of \$1.3 million in her district, she said.</p> <p>That comes as the state has still not paid the district \$3 million for capital expenses required under a formula intended to help poor districts. Mr. Brownback has asked legislators to change that formula, and they have proposed a bill that would reduce the district’s aid by another \$1.4 million, Ms. Lane said.</p> <p>“There is really very little room in reducing our expenditures without directly impacting students and the progress we’re making,” she said.”</p>
Project Proposal	It is proposed that we explore if and how student education progress has been impacted by funding cuts in Kansas.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To identify funding cuts by district</li><li>2. To explore the impacts by student population demographics</li><li>3. To identify recommendations for future funding goals</li></ol>
Proposed Presenters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. KSDE Commissioner</li><li>2. USD District Superintendents</li><li>3. District Financial Analysts</li><li>4. Legislative Representatives</li><li>5. Academic Education Researchers on base aide funding, etc.</li><li>6. Governor’s Budget Administrations</li><li>7. Kansas Children’s Cabinet or Kansas Action for Children</li></ol>